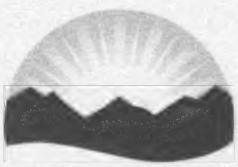
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2012/13
Annual Service Plan Report



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report*, outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

The report outlines the ministry's work to build a stronger relationship with First Nations and help close the socio-economic gaps that separate Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians. This has been a year of great successes, collaboration, and strengthening the Province's relationships with First Nations, while also promoting economic growth and job creation.

This ministry has a key role to play in the success of the *BC Jobs Plan*, because our government is keenly aware that we cannot achieve this Province's economic potential unless we work closely and respectfully with our Aboriginal partners.

In 2011, the *BC Jobs Plan* was launched with a commitment to reach 10 new non-treaty agreements by 2015. By April 2013, British Columbia had far surpassed that goal, with 18 new non-treaty agreements to help ensure greater certainty on the land base for all parties involved in resource development activity.

These agreements included:

- an agreement to allow the Haisla Nation to acquire a key parcel of Crown land for development and use for a liquefied natural gas facility and associated marine export terminal in the Douglas Channel;
- a number of mine revenue sharing agreements that benefit First Nations communities while creating more certainty for industry;
- agreements with the Fort Nelson First Nation to establish a clear process for consultation;
- a reconciliation agreement with the Gitanyow First Nation that will lead to shared decision making; and
- an agreement to allow British Columbia and the Tahltan Nation to collaborate on land and resource issues.

This past year has also been a time of reaching significant milestones in British Columbia's treaty process. In March, British Columbia passed legislation to ratify the Tla'amin Nation Final Agreement. Similarly, British Columbia previously passed legislation to ratify the Yale First Nation Final Agreement. It is expected that Canada will pass legislation in the near future to fully ratify these treaties.

These milestones, as well as several new incremental treaty agreements the B.C. Government has signed over this past year, are clear signs of momentum on the road to treaty.

We have maintained our commitment to the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, which has provided more than $3.5 million to support clean energy opportunities in 72 Aboriginal communities since 2011.

British Columbia has also now signed more than 100 forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements, providing economic benefits directly to First Nations communities based on forestry activity.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council continues to attain international recognition for their support of First Nations people in B.C. to preserve their linguistic and cultural heritage by administering funds to language, arts, and culture programs.

The ministry was pleased to receive the First Annual Report of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women in January 2013 outlining their key accomplishments for their first year and I will continue to work closely with our council and all relevant ministries to address the root causes and social and economic challenges that often leave Aboriginal women and girls exposed to violence.

We have also moved forward in our commitment to establish an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan. Five community pilots have been selected around the province. A committee has been established with representation from the federal and municipal governments, Métis Nation British Columbia and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to oversee the plan. The Province signed an agreement with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to guide the development and implementation of the plan, and a memorandum of collaboration with the federal government was signed committing parties to work together to improve socio-economic outcomes for urban Aboriginal people.

As the new minister, I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to each member of the ministry for their hard work to date. I am honoured to have joined a team that is doing so much for the betterment of Aboriginal communities across the province, which in turn benefits all British Columbians.

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2011/12 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the ministry's *2012/13 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
June 24, 2013

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Highlights of the Year

In 2012/13 the ministry embarked on an ambitious agenda focused on supporting the *BC Jobs Plan*, to facilitate immediate opportunities for improved First Nations participation in the economy and create improved certainty for development. The Province, lead by the ministry, continued groundbreaking work on the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan, a commitment in the 2011 Throne Speech to better support Aboriginal people living in urban areas and off-reserve.

The *BC Jobs Plan* included a commitment to ten new, non-treaty agreements by 2015; the ministry achieved this goal in 2012/13, two years ahead of schedule. This significant accomplishment demonstrates the Province's commitment to building proactive and respectful relationships with First Nations that benefit all parties.

British Columbia is unique in Canada with respect to many Aboriginal issues. Unlike other provinces, British Columbia is largely without treaties and, as a result, faces a greater level of legal and economic uncertainty from undefined Aboriginal rights, an issue which impacts all British Columbians. The province is home to more than one third of Canada's 600 Aboriginal communities who together form an essential part of the province's unique culture and opportunity.

British Columbia is recognized as a leader in leading reconciliation efforts with Aboriginal peoples. British Columbia's approach has:

- created success and momentum within the treaty process;
- involved First Nations more fully in resource development, supporting immediate and long-term opportunities for the economy; and
- made progress towards closing the significant socio-economic gaps faced by Aboriginal people.

Purpose of Ministry

Negotiating lasting agreements that contribute to reconciliation

The ministry leads government's efforts to achieve reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples and is responsible for the Province's Aboriginal policy approach and the representative for all treaty and other negotiations with First Nations.

At a strategic level, work is focused in three key areas:

- Building respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples.
- Addressing legal and economic uncertainty created by unidentified Aboriginal rights through reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title through lasting agreements (treaty and non-treaty).
- Closing the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.

The ministry plays a crucial role in supporting key corporate initiatives. In 2012/13, ministry efforts were focused on supporting the *BC Jobs Plan* by pursuing agreements, both treaty and non-treaty, to build certainty on the land base and ensure that First Nations share the benefits of resource development in their territories.

The ministry is one of six ministries that together, comprise the provincial government's natural resource sector. Partner ministries are:

- Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations;
- Energy and Mines;
- Natural Gas Development;
- Environment;
- Agriculture; and
- Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

The ministry negotiates treaties and related agreements with First Nations and Canada. Treaties offer the most comprehensive form of reconciliation agreement, and the highest degree of certainty on the land base. Treaties provide First Nations with significant tools for social and economic development and self-government, and they remove First Nations from the constraints of the *Indian Act*.

The ministry's eight regional offices are responsible for managing relationships with First Nations and provide expert local support for negotiation of non-treaty agreements and implementation of treaty and non-treaty agreements. The regional presence supports conflict resolution, and serves as a liaison with other resource ministries. The regional offices also provide advice to industry on engaging with First Nations.

Building relationships and developing strong partnerships

The ministry builds relationships with Aboriginal peoples based on respect and recognition. The ministry also plays a key role in promoting creative multi-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional work on Aboriginal initiatives. The ministry works in partnership with Aboriginal communities, organizations and people and brings together representatives from other ministries and Crown agencies, other orders of government, and business and industry to identify new opportunities for economic participation and investment and job creation to support the goals of the *BC Jobs Plan*.

Providing leadership and expert advice on policy relating to Aboriginal peoples

The ministry provides industry proponents and natural resource sector staff with strategic advice and best practices on a broad spectrum of issues to improve their ability to work successfully and partner with First Nations. Since 2011, the ministry and the Business Council of British Columbia have worked together to identify opportunities to improve business practices for consultation and engagement with First Nations and support capacity building for First Nations to engage efficiently and meaningfully. In 2012/13 the ministry and the Business Council of British Columbia jointly led a regional engagement process to advance this dialogue with almost 250 industry leaders and provincial decision makers in six locations around the province.

The ministry supports cross-government policy frameworks related to Crown-Aboriginal relations, economic development, social sectors (health, education and housing) and language and culture initiatives. In addition, the ministry is responsible for intergovernmental relations and national policy tables on issues concerning Aboriginal peoples on and off-reserve. The ministry also supports and advises line ministries as they develop and implement Aboriginal social and economic policies and programs, such as the new Aboriginal Business and Investment Council developed under the *BC Jobs Plan*.

Building Partnerships

"[The regional workshops were] undoubtedly one of the most comprehensive and substantive stakeholder engagement reviews ever undertaken between government and the business council."

— Greg D'Avignon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of British Columbia

Strengthening relationships with the Métis Nation

The ministry continues to work in partnership with Métis Nation British Columbia to achieve the objectives of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord and the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan. The ministry supports Métis Nation British Columbia's efforts to enhance educational opportunities and to reinforce and regenerate Métis identity, history and culture through education. Métis are distinct Aboriginal peoples, with unique language, history, and cultural traditions. Approximately 30 per cent of British Columbia's Aboriginal population self-identifies as Métis.

Advancing the revitalization of Aboriginal language and culture

There are many strong and complex connections among language, culture and Aboriginal community well-being and sustainability. Language plays an important role in maintaining and reinforcing cultural identity. British Columbia is home to 32 distinct First Nations languages, representing about 60 per cent of all the indigenous languages in Canada. The ministry supports the revitalization of First Nations language, heritage, culture and arts through the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council (formerly the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council). The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a Crown corporation established by the Province in 1990 by the *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act* (the Act). The Act established the First Peoples' Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors to support and guide the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. Its mandate includes the following:

- Preserve, restore and revitalize First Nations heritage, language, arts and culture.
- Heighten the appreciation and acceptance of the wealth of cultural diversity among all British Columbians.
- Provide funding to British Columbia's First Nations for arts, cultural and language programs.
- Advise government on the preservation and fostering of First Nations heritage, arts, languages and culture.
- Work in partnership with First Nations communities to revitalize and archive their cultures and languages and restore literacy and fluency in First Nations languages.

Over the past year the First Peoples' Cultural Council has developed a partnership with Google, launching the global Endangered Languages Project. The council is also working with the Royal BC Museum to create an exhibition that will launch in February 2014, and celebrate the value and diversity of British Columbia's First Nations languages.

Strategic Context

The legal context

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. Through a number of important decisions, the courts have reinforced that Aboriginal rights and title exist and that these rights influence the way government operates. The Supreme Court of Canada has stated that the ability of government to infringe those rights is constrained. Governments are legally required to consult with First Nations on decisions which have the potential to infringe rights. Infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights must be justified and may include accommodation which can take many forms, including mitigating measures. The ministry is the lead agency within the provincial government for negotiating treaty and other arrangements that address the legal requirement flowing from Aboriginal rights and creating certainty for First Nations and all British Columbians.

Demographic and social factors

In British Columbia, the Aboriginal population is characterized by unique demographic qualities which help inform policy and program decisions going forward. British Columbia is home to 203 bands, over one-third of the more than 600 First Nations communities in Canada. This comprises the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in the country. Approximately 200,000 people in the province identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population in British Columbia grew by 15 per cent, more than three times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population.[1]

The fastest growing population demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. In fact, the median age of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia is approximately 12 years younger than the median age of the province's overall population. The provincial government engages with Aboriginal youth on related provincial policy and program development to seek ways to support them in developing their potential to help make important contributions and to accelerate job creation and growth.

The statistics respecting the socio-economic gaps that Aboriginal people face are compelling. First Nation, Métis and urban Aboriginal people experience significantly worse socio-economic conditions than other British Columbians. While there is evidence that some progress has been made, much work remains to comprehensively address the long-standing social and economic challenges faced by Aboriginal people.

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[1] The increase is due in part to an increase in the number of individuals who self-identify as Aboriginal.

Increasing urbanization is another demographic consideration. The 2006 Census reports that 74 per cent of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia lives off-reserve, with 60 per cent living in urban areas. The provincial government has committed to working with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan. The plan will support improved coordination of programs and services delivered by the Province, Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments. It will reflect a community-driven and multi-stakeholder approach, and will improve socio-economic outcomes in key areas including employment, in support of the *BC Jobs Plan*. The Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan will also guide ministries and agencies in taking appropriate steps so Aboriginal people residing off-reserve have access to key services (i.e. health, education, housing, and employment).

Negotiation and implementation of agreements

British Columbia has responded to the need to reconcile Aboriginal rights with a flexible set of treaty and non-treaty tools that can be tailored to the needs and situations of individual First Nations in and out of the treaty process. Building on the momentum of agreements finalized in 2011/12, the ministry continued to achieve a historic number of agreements in 2012/13, surpassing the *BC Jobs Plan* commitment of 10 new, non-treaty agreements by 2015 two years early. These agreements directly support development in the resource sector and provide opportunity for First Nations communities to share in the benefits of development.

Economic context

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 1.7 per cent in 2012 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 2.8 per cent in 2011. Annual gains in the domestic economy during 2012 were observed in employment, consumer spending and housing starts. British Columbia's exports fell during the year, however, as global demand weakened and prices fell for some key commodities. Several risks to British Columbia's economy remain, including further slowing of domestic economic activity, renewed weakness in the United States economy, the ongoing European sovereign debt crisis threatening the stability of global financial markets, exchange rate volatility, and slower than anticipated economic growth in Asia dampening demand for British Columbia's exports.

Clean energy

In April 2011, the ministry launched the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund. This fund was created as part of the *Clean Energy Act* to increase First Nations participation in clean, renewable energy projects within their traditional territories. Since its creation, the fund has provided more than $3.5 million to 72 Aboriginal communities to support partnerships with clean energy components. The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund also allows for revenue sharing with successful applicants, based on provincial resource rents (i.e. land and water rentals), prescribed under the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund regulation, that result from clean energy projects that receive land or water authorizations after the enactment of the *Clean Energy Act*.

Report on Performance

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal: Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia For greater detail see pages 13 to 19	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Objective 1: Establish respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples as a model for all British Columbians. **Objective 2: Seek opportunities for early engagement of Aboriginal peoples in initiatives that affect their families and their communities.** • Number of completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements and strategic engagement agreements.	4	7 Exceeded
Objective 3: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. • Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.	2	8 Exceeded
Objective 4: Respectfully reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights. • Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements-in-principle.	4	11 Exceeded
Objective 4: Respectfully reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights. • Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.	107	108
Objective 5: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations. • Number of capacity-building opportunities, including two-way job shadowing, work exchanges and sharing of human resource expertise.	Establish baseline	Improved on baseline
Objective 6: Work across government to support the delivery of programs and services to off-reserve and urban Aboriginal populations. **Objective 7: Strengthen the Province's capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal peoples.** • Percentage of public service employees who are able to use their knowledge of Aboriginal peoples, histories and cultures to influence their day-to-day work.	Maintain or improve	Improving

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal: Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia

Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome stumbling blocks along the way, and a willingness to learn from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition are key to making reconciliation possible.

Objective 1: Establish respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples as a model for all British Columbians

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Work with other provinces, territories, the federal government and national Aboriginal organizations to initiate and coordinate efforts to address issues of mutual interest.
- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives aimed at improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Provide advice, guidance and direction to industry in engaging with Aboriginal peoples.
- Prevent critical incidents and resolve issues.

Objective 2: Seek opportunities for early engagement of Aboriginal peoples in initiatives that affect their families and their communities

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Support First Nations access to land and resource tenures.
- Negotiate and implement agreements with First Nations, including treaties, which contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

Performance Measure 1: Strategic agreements

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	20011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements and strategic engagement agreements.	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	4	7 EXCEEDED

[1]In previous Service Plans these agreements were included with treaty and revenue sharing agreements in one large category, rather than categorized separately as they are in 2012/13.

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

A key element of the *BC Jobs Plan* is government's commitment to improving opportunities and resources for First Nations to participate in resource activity in their traditional territories.

In January 2013, the ministry exceeded the *BC Jobs Plan* commitment to 10 new, non-treaty agreements, two years ahead of schedule. These agreements help ensure greater certainty on the land base for all parties involved in resource development activity.

British Columbia's non-treaty agreements underscore an innovative approach that supports economic growth and job creation - not only for the First Nations involved, but for neighbouring communities. Strengthening government's relationships with First Nations creates benefits for all British Columbians.

Objective 3: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Work with other ministries to champion access to business ventures and economic development opportunities.
- Work with other ministries to support Aboriginal access to programs and services associated with skills development and training.
- Provide flexible funding to First Nations through various agreements such as economic and community development agreements.
- Participate in the treaty revitalization process.
- Work across government and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples, to implement the Transformative Change Accord and Métis Nation Relationship Accord in areas such as education, housing and infrastructure, health, economic development and Crown-Aboriginal relations.

- Monitor and report on activities and progress on meeting the goals of the Transformative Change Accord and Métis Nation Relationship Accord through two cross-government reports: Measuring Outcomes and New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in British Columbia.
- Improve data collection and reporting specific to the Métis and off-reserve/urban Aboriginal populations.

Performance Measure 2: Revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	20011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	2	8 EXCEEDED

[1]In previous Service Plans these agreements were included with treaty and revenue sharing agreements in one large category, rather than categorized separately as they are in 2012/13.

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

British Columbia is committed to sharing revenues with First Nations as a means to increase certainty on the land and to bring First Nations into greater partnership in resource development. Economic and community development agreements support the *BC Jobs Plan* commitments to share new streams of tax revenue from major mine projects with First Nations, and to support existing jobs and to create new jobs. In 2012/13, the Province achieved a number of economic and community development agreements with First Nations in different parts of the province. At the 2012 Mining Round Up event, British Columbia and the Ktunaxa Nation celebrated the signing of their economic and community development agreement that will help four Ktunaxa communities benefit from resource-development activity in the Ktunaxa traditional territory, while increasing economic certainty in the Kootenays.

Building Partnerships

"These ECDA agreements help both Aboriginal communities and the industry by setting out a clear process for consultation and defining tangible benefits for First Nations, tied to responsible resource development"

Gavin C. Dirom, president & CEO, Association for Mineral Exploration BC

In 2012/13 the Province signed the first-ever revenue sharing agreement under the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, which will see the Tahltan Nation benefit from the Forrest Kerr hydroelectric project.

Objective 4: Respectfully reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Support the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, the B.C. Government and local governments.
- Work across ministries to support Aboriginal peoples' access to programs and services associated with economic development.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes.
- Link economic development agreements to treaty through land transfers for current and future use.

Performance Measure 3: Treaties and related agreements

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	20011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements-in-principle.	63[1]	39[1]	4	11 EXCEEDED

[1] In previous Service Plans these agreements were included with treaty and revenue sharing agreements in one large category, rather than categorized separately as they are in 2012/13.

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

In addition to success in achieving non-treaty agreements, British Columbia remains committed to the treaty process and continues to make progress: this year, British Columbia passed legislation to ratify the Tla'amin Nation Final Agreement and the Kitsumkalum and Kitselas communities voted in favour of their agreements-in-principle.

Treaty agreements reconcile Aboriginal rights and title with the sovereignty of the Crown. Treaties address social, economic, environmental, and cultural and governance issues facing First Nations, and establish a brand new relationship with federal, provincial and local governments.

The Province and First Nations achieved 10 incremental treaty agreements in 2012/13. Incremental treaty agreements are a made-in-British Columbia tool that allow for progress with First Nations ahead of a final treaty agreement by providing early access to a portion of treaty benefits. Incremental treaty agreements focus on facilitating immediate economic development and partnership opportunities.

Performance Measure 4: Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.	53	87	107	108 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

Introduced in 2010, forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements provide First Nations communities with economic benefits returning directly to their community based on harvest activities in their traditional territory.

In 2012/13 British Columbia reached a milestone in this innovative approach to putting forestry revenue directly back into First Nations communities with the signing of British Columbia's 100th forest consultation and revenue sharing agreement since the new model was adopted.

In addition to revenue sharing, forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements also provide a consultation process for operational decisions related to forestry in the area. This enhances consultation efficiency, provides certainty to the land base and provides a positive investment environment for industry and opportunities for First Nations and non-First Nations community members.

First Nations have used the revenue to support community initiatives and infrastructure projects ranging from economic development in forestry, lands and resource development to afterschool care and education programs. Other uses include funding community hall improvements and community information sessions.

Objective 5: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Continued operation of the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.
- Lead negotiation of carbon offset-sharing arrangements with First Nations.
- Support governance and capacity initiatives in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations.
- Provide economic opportunities for communities in supporting implementation.

- Work with First Nations through multi-sectoral partnerships such as the Tahltan socio-cultural working group.
- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.

Performance Measure 5: Capacity building

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	20011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Number of capacity-building opportunities, including two-way job shadowing, work exchanges and sharing of human resource expertise.	N/A	N/A	Establish Baseline	Improved on Baseline

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

Through the ministry's Community Development Branch, the ministry works closely with First Nations on community-identified priorities to build capacity based on the communities' assets and strengths. The ministry also works directly with First Nations youth to realize their potential and empower their participation as emerging leaders.

The ministry continues to work to increase positive public awareness and to honour the valuable contributions of Aboriginal peoples to British Columbia. The ministry supports the annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards; now in its fifth year, the awards celebrate and promote the achievements of Aboriginal business people around the province.

Objective 6: Work across government to support the delivery of programs and services to off-reserve and urban Aboriginal populations

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Work with provincial ministries to identify how to better coordinate programs to improve outcomes.
- Work with provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to implement the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan.
- Undertake evidence-based research to improve government programming that supports Aboriginal peoples.

Objective 7: Strengthen the Province's capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Work within government, with First Nations and with First Nations leaders to understand, clarify and seek solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.
- Coordinate and streamline consultation processes and provide information management systems to government and provincial government partners.
- Provide strategic advice across government and facilitate coordinated consultation strategies for major projects with multi-agency authorizations.

Performance Measure 6: Applied knowledge of Aboriginal people

Performance Measure	2010/11 Actual	20011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
Percentage of public service employees who are able to use their knowledge of Aboriginal peoples, histories and cultures to influence their day-to-day work.	N/A	N/A	Maintain or Improve	Improving

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

The ministry and the BC Public Service Agency are co-sponsors of the Building Capacity in Aboriginal Relations initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen BC Public Service capacity in working respectfully, knowledgably and effectively with Aboriginal communities, organizations and people. In 2012/13 the Province released the Aboriginal Relations Behavioural Competencies and delivered training to public servants to support them in working respectfully with Aboriginal people and communities.

Report on Resources: Summary Table

Core Business Area	2012/13 Estimates[1]	Other Authorizations[2]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance[3]
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Negotiations and Implementation	13,708	1,324	15,032	12,299	(2,733)
Community and Socio-Economic Development	3,830	190	4,020	3,844	(176)
Strategic Initiatives	13,316	80	13,396	13,109	(287)
Executive and Support Services	3,899	86	3,985	7,181	3,196
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	40,007	15,197	55,204	55,204	0
First Citizens Fund Special Account	3,230	0	3,230	3,226	(4)
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	2,151	87	2,238	2,238	0
Sub Total	80,141	16,964	97,105	97,101	(4)
Prior Year Accrual Reversals	0	0	0	(1,279)	(1,279)
Total	80,141	16,964	97,105	95,822	(1,283)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	**391**	**0**	**391**	81	**(310)**
Total	**391**	**0**	**391**	81	**(310)**

[1] The amounts in the "2012/13 Estimates" column correspond to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in February 2012.
[2] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies.
[3] "Variance" represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission

www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Cultural Council

www.fphlcc.ca/

Métis Nation Relationship Accord

http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/accord.html

New Relationship

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/down/new_relationship.pdf

New Relationship Trust

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

Transformative Change Accord

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the ministry can be found at:
www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm